

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dixon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,677,338). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dixon et al

Cited reference 1 to Dixon et al (US 4,677,338) is directed to an electric lamp having an outer stem surface which, minimizes internal reflections. As shown in Fig. 1 of Dixon et al, a plurality of depressions and ribs 12 are shown in a seal of the lamp, **some of which are formed above connecting portions of foil 4 and pin 8, and foil 5 and pin 9.** As discussed in column 1 of Dixon et al, for example, "...the seal may be formed with circumferential grooves and/or ribs during manufacture. The surface may be dimpled..." (see column 2, lines 52-54).

As discussed in column 3 of Dixon et al., "The surface of each seal is formed into a series of adjacent circumferential ribs 12, which series constitutes a radiation-dispersive surface region, as illustrated by the typical rays R1 and R2, both of which

column 2, it is clear that these ribs 12...“thereby reducing the risk of failure of the outer end of the foil caused by oxidation” (see column 2, lines 33-34). In addition, **it can also be clearly seen in Fig. 1 that the depressions between the circumferential ribs are provided above the connected portions between the foils 3, 4 and the pins 8, 9.** Hence in Dixon et al, the rays R1 and R2 irradiated from the envelope 1 are dispersed outside the stems, and thereby preventing the oxidation of the foils 4, 5 due to heating.

Distinctions from Dixon et al

According to the present invention as claimed in claim 14, each of the at least one constricted portion is provided **“only in an area other than an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected and other than an area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected.”** To the contrary, in Dixon et al, the depressions of the circumferential ribs are also provided at the connected portions between the foils 3, 4 and the respective pins 8, 9. Thus, at least such a limitation of claim 14 does not read upon and thus is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Dixon et al.

Accordingly, since in the present invention as set forth in claim 14, each at least one constricted portion is provided only in an area other than an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected and an area in which the external lead and the metal foil is connected (wherein no constricted portion exists at the connected portions), **a decrease in strength of connection between the electrode and the metal foil and between the external lead and the metal foil can be prevented.**

the present application. On the other hand, since the depressions of the circumferential ribs are provided at the connected portions between the foils 3, 4 and the respective pins 9,8 in Dixon et al, the effect of the present invention as set forth in claim 14 cannot be achieved. Moreover, Dixon et al fails to teach or suggest about the reduction in strength of connection due to the depressions of the circumferential ribs being provided at the connection portion. Accordingly, for at least such reasons, Dixon et al clearly does not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned limitation of claim 14. Thus, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claim 14 is respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment and allowance of each of pending claims 14-26 is respectfully requested.

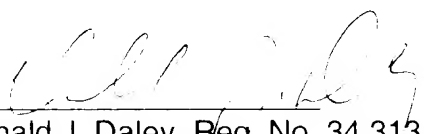
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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